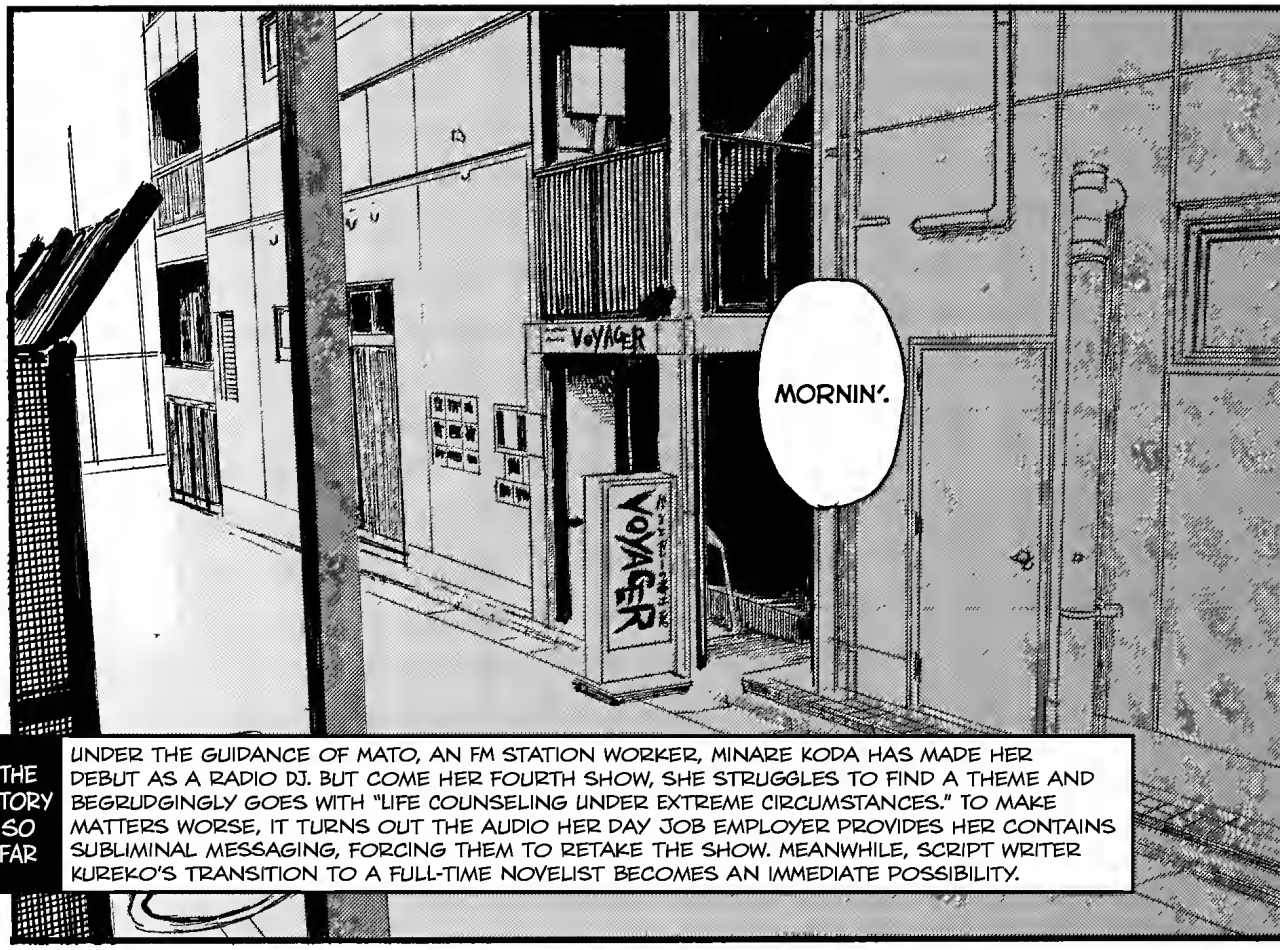
30
wave
LISTEN TO ME!
HIROAKI SAMURA
KC
KODANSHA COMICS

Wave, LISTEN TO ME!

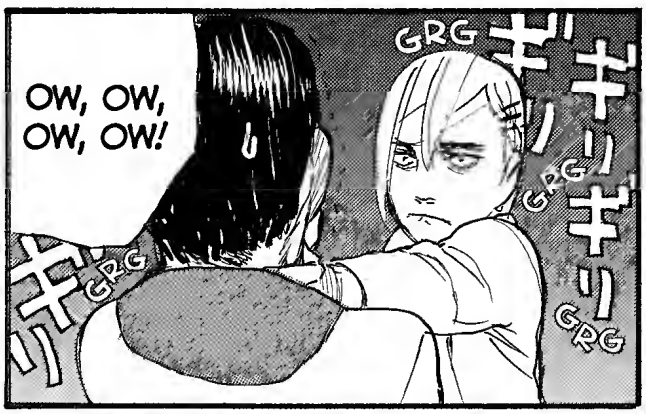
HIROAKI SAMURA

Chapter 30 | MY HEART WON'T REACH YOU.



THE STORY SO FAR

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MATO, AN FM STATION WORKER, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ. BUT COME HER FOURTH SHOW, SHE STRUGGLES TO FIND A THEME AND BEGRUDGINGLY GOES WITH "LIFE COUNSELING UNDER EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES." TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, IT TURNS OUT THE AUDIO HER DAY JOB EMPLOYER PROVIDES HER CONTAINS SUBLIMINAL MESSAGING, FORCING THEM TO RETAKE THE SHOW. MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO'S TRANSITION TO A FULL-TIME NOVELIST BECOMES AN IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY.

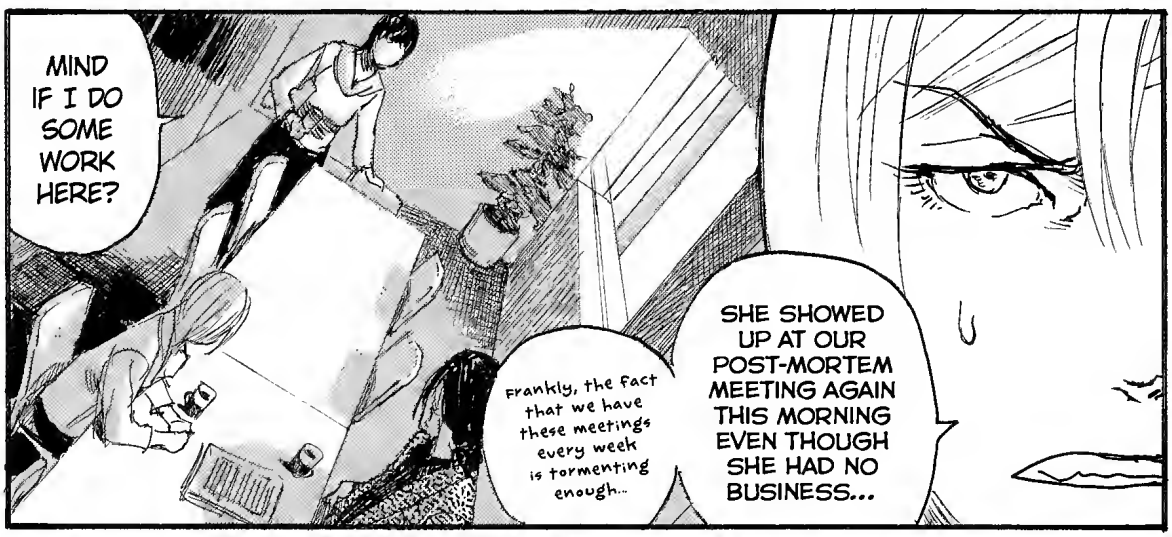


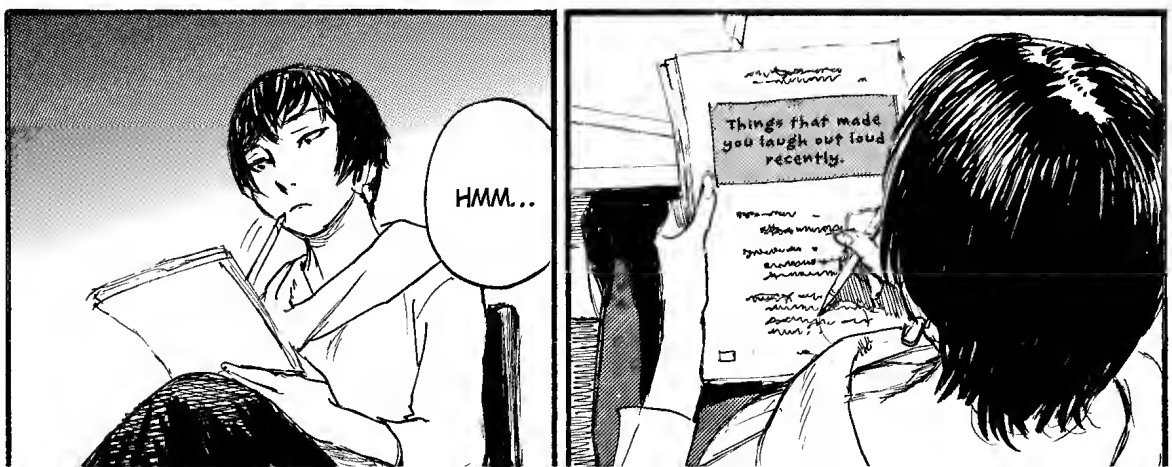
KODA-SAN.
I LISTENED TO YOUR SHOW LAST NIGHT.
I TAKE IT THE FACT THAT YOU DIDN'T USE THE AUDIO I GAVE YOU MEANS YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THE WORST?

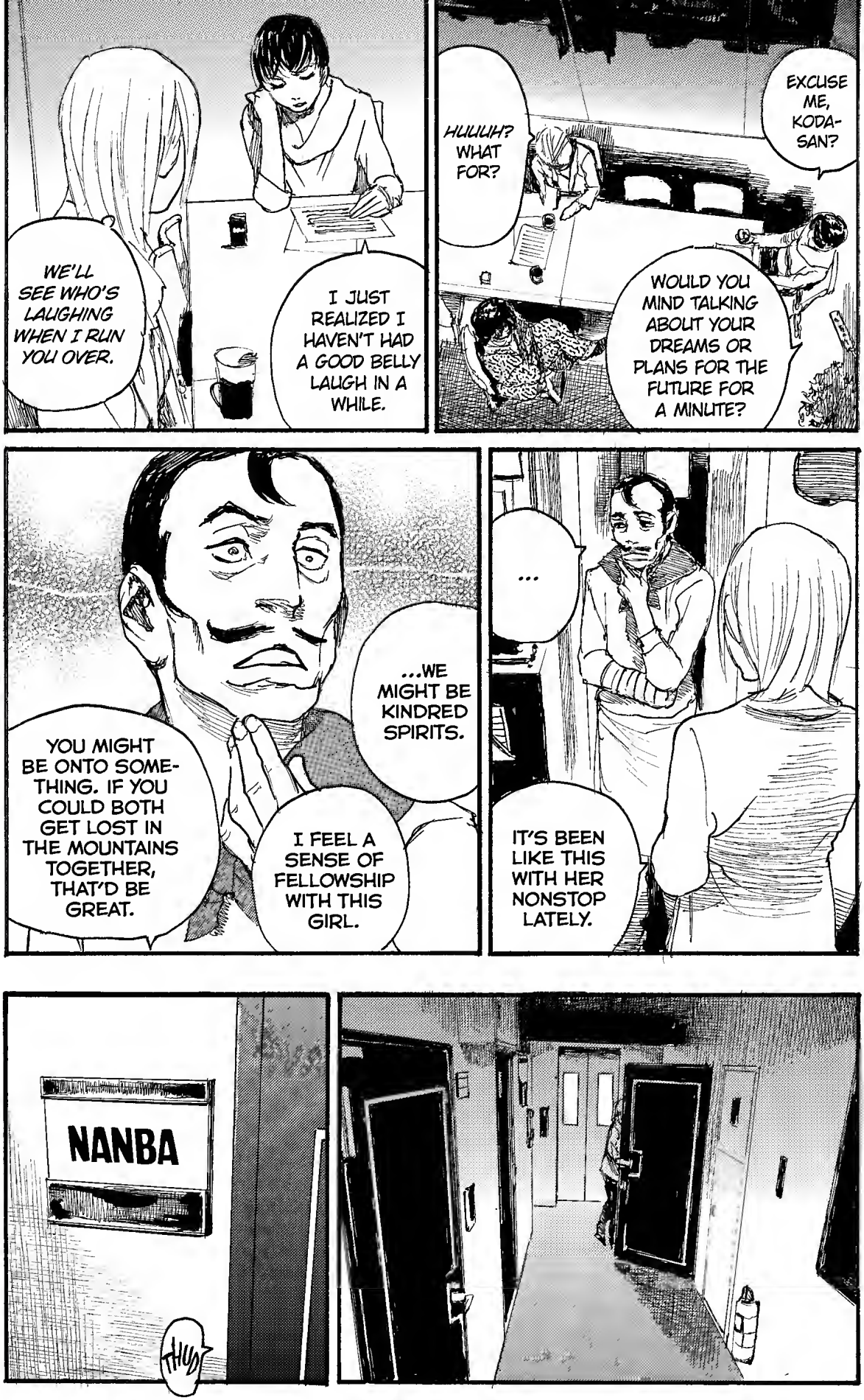
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCES TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, AND PLACES ARE PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

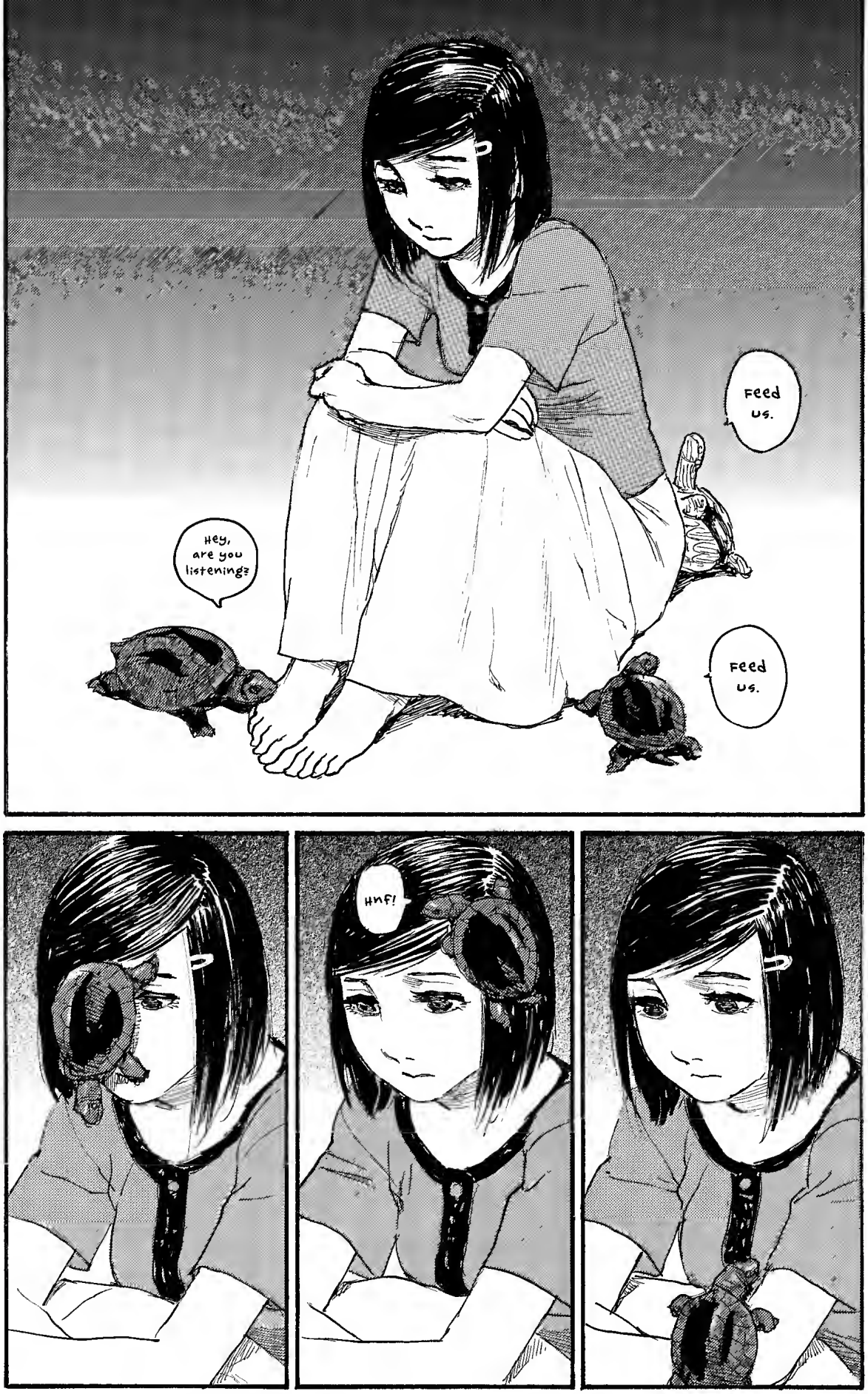
Not cool...
THAT'S PRETTY MESSED UP, TAKARADA-SAN...
IS THAT TRUE, SIR...?
?
YOU CAN PLAY INNOCENT LIKE A FRESHLY-BUILT BOY ROBOT ALL YOU WANT. I'M NOT LETTING YOU OFF.
SUBLIM-INAL...?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! NO MORE UNDER-HANDED TRICKS!
I'LL SPONSOR YOUR SHOW!
BUT IN RETURN, I WANT YOU TO PLUG "VOYAGER: A DREAMLAND OF CURRY AND BREAD" AT THE BEGINNING *AND* END.
WAIT, SERI-OUSLY?!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME BY—
GETTING A PATRON MIGHT LOWER MY CHANCES OF GETTING MY SHOW CUT...
HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY?!
50,000* PER MONTH?
*APPROX. 500 USD.
THAT'LL BUY YOU A ONE-SYLLABLE PLUG.
THEN...
HOW ABOUT 50,500**?
**APPROX. 505 USD.
KEEP OFFERING AT THAT RATE AND THE STORE'S GONNA CLOSE BEFORE YOU MEET THE MINIMUM BID.

FOR A BUSINESS OWNER, YOU DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT BETTERING THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE WORK-PLACE, DO YOU?
JUST PULLING YOUR LEG.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, MADOKA CHISHIRO HAS THE PERSON-ALITY OF A SPITTOON!
I'D SOONER PAY A HUNDRED TIMES MORE TO SPONSOR SOMEONE LIKE MADOKA CHISHIRO'S SHOW...
...THAN SOME NOBODY'S SKETCHY LATE-NIGHT TALK SHOW WHOM GOD KNOWS IS LISTENING TO.

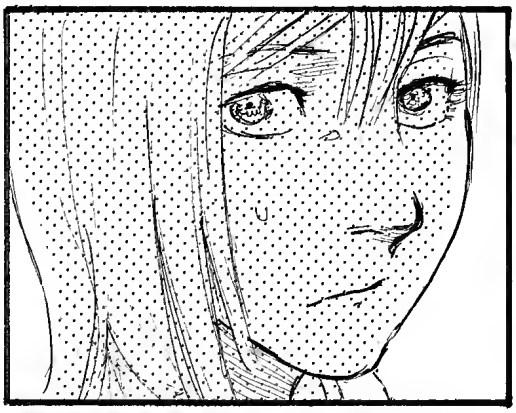

MIND IF I DO SOME WORK HERE?
Frankly, the fact that we have these meetings every week is tormenting enough...
SHE SHOWED UP AT OUR POST-MORTEM MEETING AGAIN THIS MORNING EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD NO BUSINESS...


HMM...
Things that made you laugh out loud recently.


I JUST REALIZED I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD BELLY LAUGH IN A WHILE.
WE'LL SEE WHO'S LAUGHING WHEN I RUN YOU OVER.
EXCUSE ME, KODA-SAN?
HUUUUH? WHAT FOR?
WOULD YOU MIND TALKING ABOUT YOUR DREAMS OR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE FOR A MINUTE?
...WE MIGHT BE KINDRED SPIRITS.
I FEEL A SENSE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THIS GIRL.
YOU MIGHT BE ONTO SOME-THING. IF YOU COULD BOTH GET LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS TOGETHER, THAT'D BE GREAT.
...
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS WITH HER NONSTOP LATELY.
NANBA
THUD


Feed us.
Hey, are you listening?
Feed us.
Hnf!

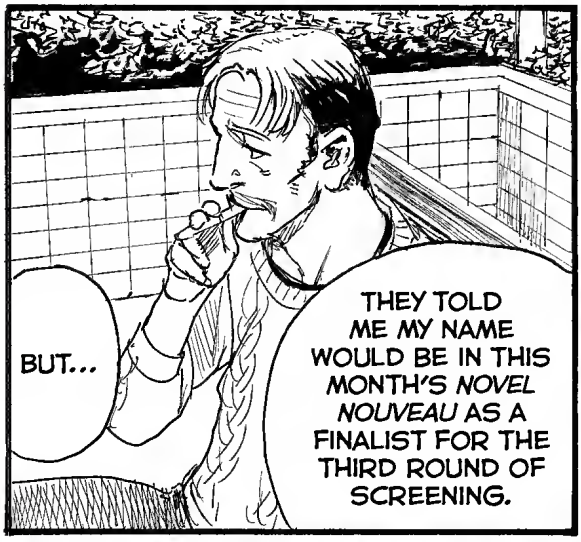
WELCOME BACK, MINARE-SAN.
AH...
Whoa!
M-MIZUHO...
she's using the turtles like doctor fish...



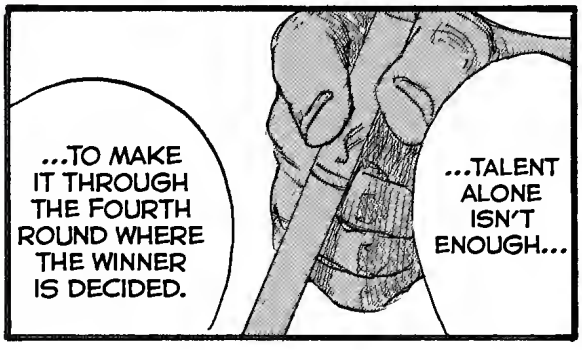
...MIZUHO FOUND OUT THAT KUREKO-SAN MIGHT BE LEAVING MOIWAYAMA RADIO.
THIS MORN-ING...

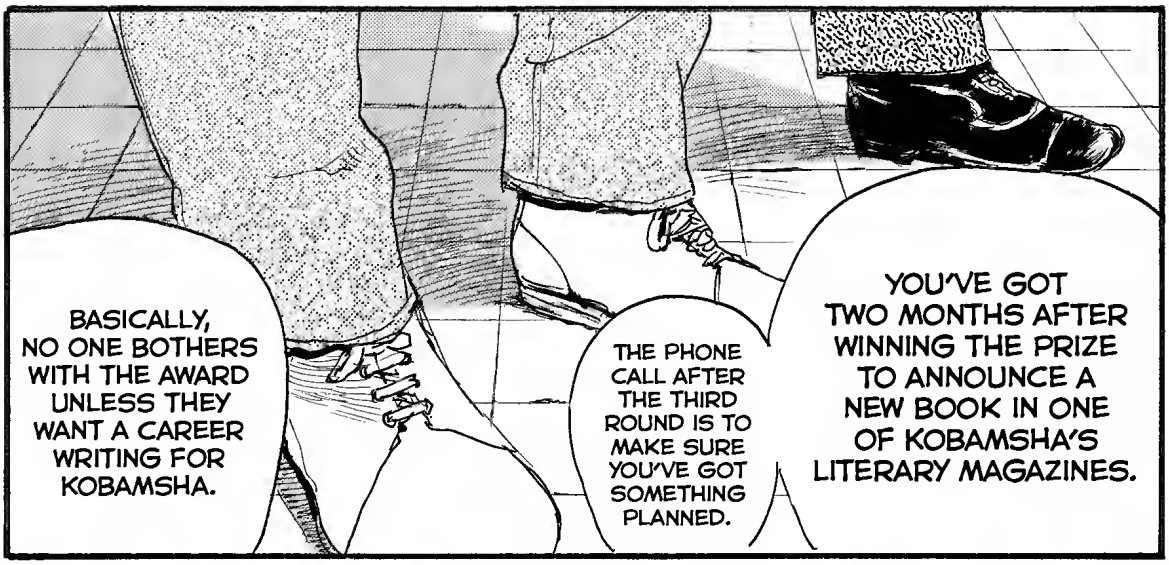
ER... THANKS.
WHY DON'T YOU HOP IN THE BATH? I'LL WHIP SOMETHING UP.

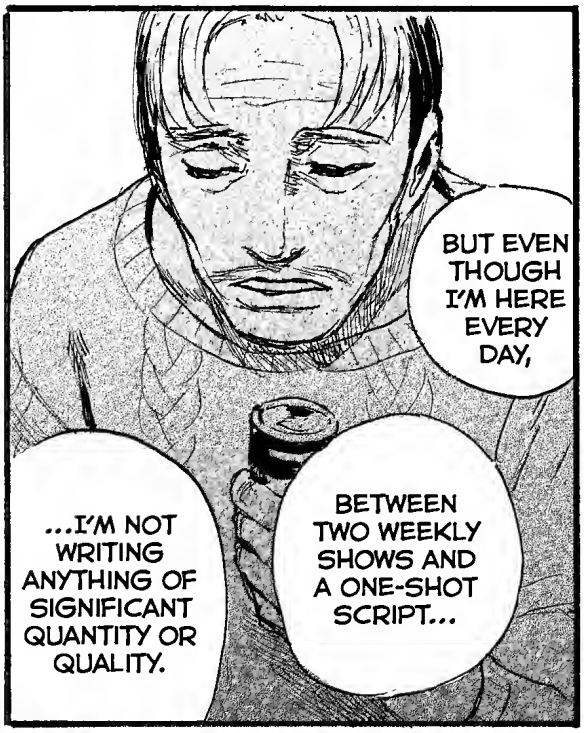
EVER HEARD OF THE ARAKAWA RANZOU AWARD?
THAT'S THE LITERARY AWARD FOR SUSPENSE AND MYSTERY STUFF, RIGHT?
KEIGO NISHINO, NATSUO KIRINO, AND JUN IDOBASHI HAVE ALL GOTTEN IT BEFORE.


BUT...
THEY TOLD ME MY NAME WOULD BE IN THIS MONTH'S *NOVEL NOUVEAU* AS A FINALIST FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF SCREENING.

GOOD TASTE.
I READ THAT STUFF A LOT. I LIKE NOVELS WHERE MORE THAN THREE PEOPLE DIE.
YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF.


...TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE FOURTH ROUND WHERE THE WINNER IS DECIDED.
...TALENT ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH...

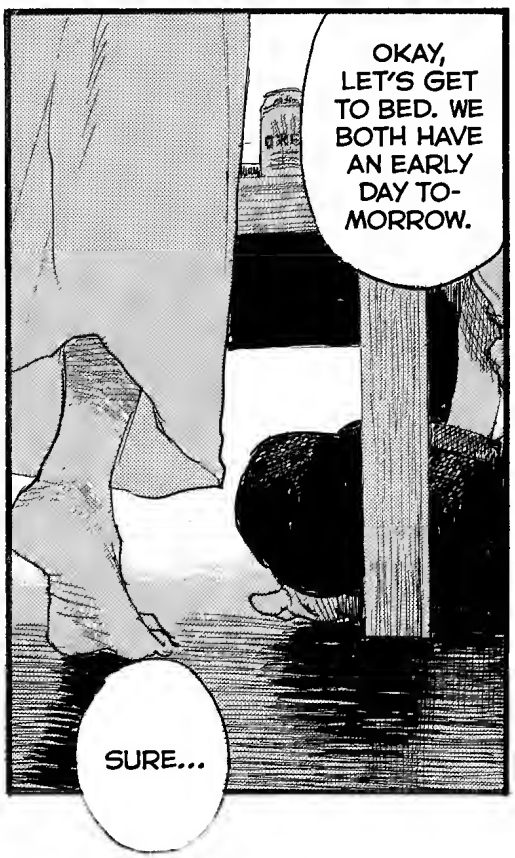

BASICALLY, NO ONE BOTHERS WITH THE AWARD UNLESS THEY WANT A CAREER WRITING FOR KOBAMSHA.
THE PHONE CALL AFTER THE THIRD ROUND IS TO MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING PLANNED.
YOU'VE GOT TWO MONTHS AFTER WINNING THE PRIZE TO ANNOUNCE A NEW BOOK IN ONE OF KOBAMSHA'S LITERARY MAGAZINES.


BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M HERE EVERY DAY,
BETWEEN TWO WEEKLY SHOWS AND A ONE-SHOT SCRIPT...
...I'M NOT WRITING ANYTHING OF SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

I'M AT MRS FOR OVER 12 HOURS EVERY DAY,
AND IN WHAT FREE TIME I HAVE, I WRITE ABOUT 30,000 CHARACTERS PER MONTH BETWEEN TWO S&M MAGS.
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I'VE PRETTY MUCH GOT MY HANDS FULL AS IT IS.

DON'T SWEAT IT.
SORRY TO SAY SO AFTER YOU THREW ME A BONE, MATO.
IT MIGHT BE TIME TO GIVE UP ON RADIO.

TO BE HONEST,
I GOT FED UP WITH MYSELF EVERY TIME I ENTERED THE CONTEST. I'M WAY PAST THE AGE FOR AN AMATEUR AWARD.
Mrs. Missile
The Lustful Launch Family
Hisaki Kou
HERE.
you can have it.
WHAT KINDA EROTIC NOVELS DO YOU WRITE?
IF THERE'S ANY HOPE FOR A 52-YEAR-OLD WRITER WHO NEVER BROKE OUT OF OBSCURITY TO HAVE A TURNING POINT IN LIFE, THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE.
BUT...
...I'VE GOT NO WIFE, NO KIDS, AND NO MONEY.
HELL, EVEN I'M SURPRISED THAT I STILL HAVE THE DESIRE TO MAKE A CHANGE.


OKAY, LET'S GET TO BED. WE BOTH HAVE AN EARLY DAY TO-MORROW.
SURE...

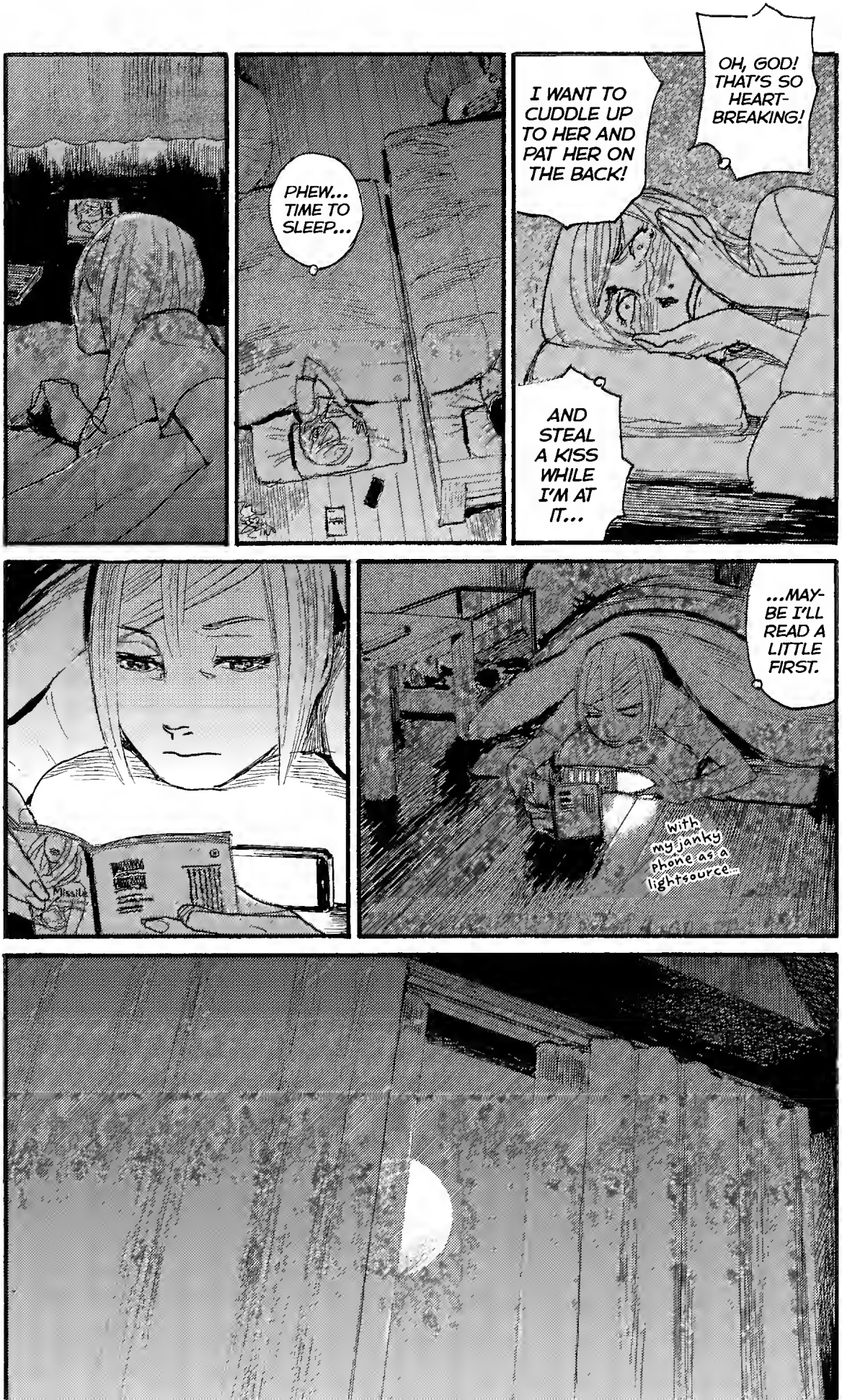
HM?
OH... YEAH.

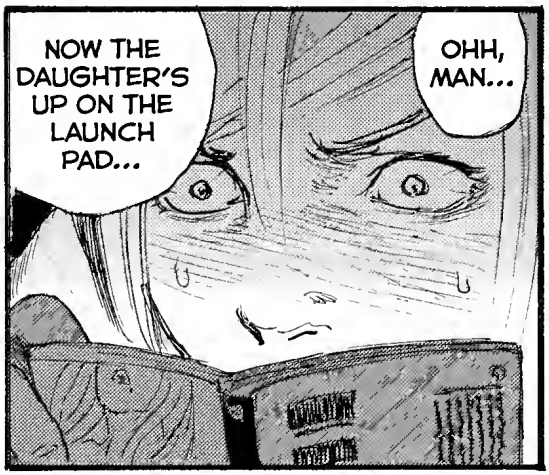
IT'D BE GREAT... IF KUREKO-SAN WINS, HUH?

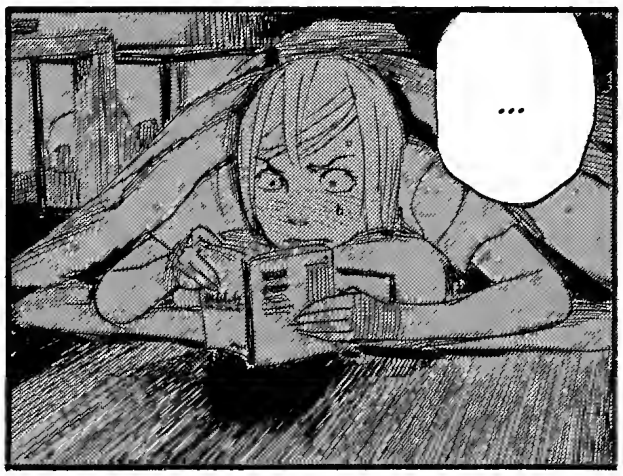
DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY, MIZUHO?

DOESN'T PART OF YOU WISH HE WON'T BE SELECTED?
AFTER ALL, YOUR DREAM IS...

I'M GOING TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN TO BECOME A CHIEF DIRECTOR WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS!
AND KATSUMI KUREKO ONBOARD AS A SCRIPT-WRITER, IN THE STRONGEST LINEUP I CAN IMAGINE...
AND WITH YOU, MINARE KODA, AS MY MAIN DJ,
...I'LL CONVINCE THE PRODUCER TO LET ME MANAGE AN ENTIRE THREE-HOUR BLOCK!

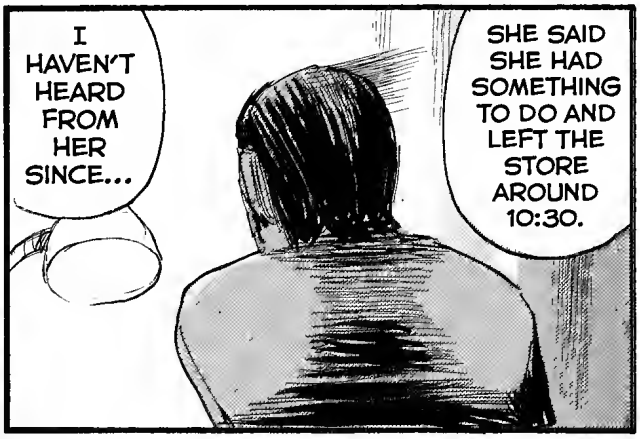

PHEW... TIME TO SLEEP...
I WANT TO CUDDLE UP TO HER AND PAT HER ON THE BACK!
OH, GOD! THAT'S SO HEART-BREAKING!
AND STEAL A KISS WHILE I'M AT IT...
Missile
...MAY-BE I'LL READ A LITTLE FIRST.
with my janky phone as a lightsource...


NOW THE DAUGHTER'S UP ON THE LAUNCH PAD...
OHH, MAN...


...

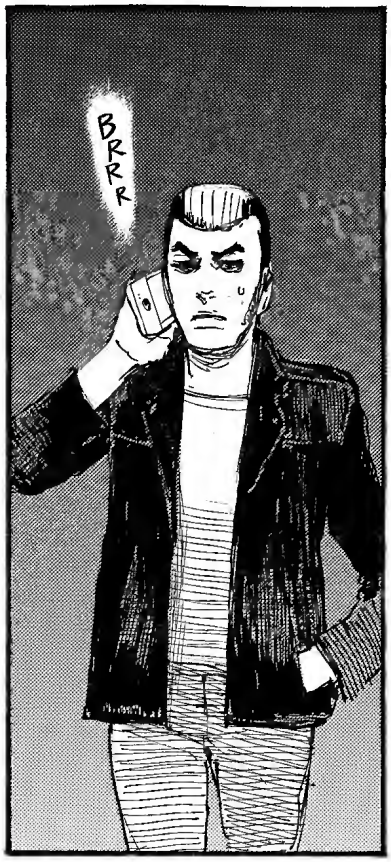
HUH? OH...
WHERE'S TACHIBANA-SAN?
CHUUYA.

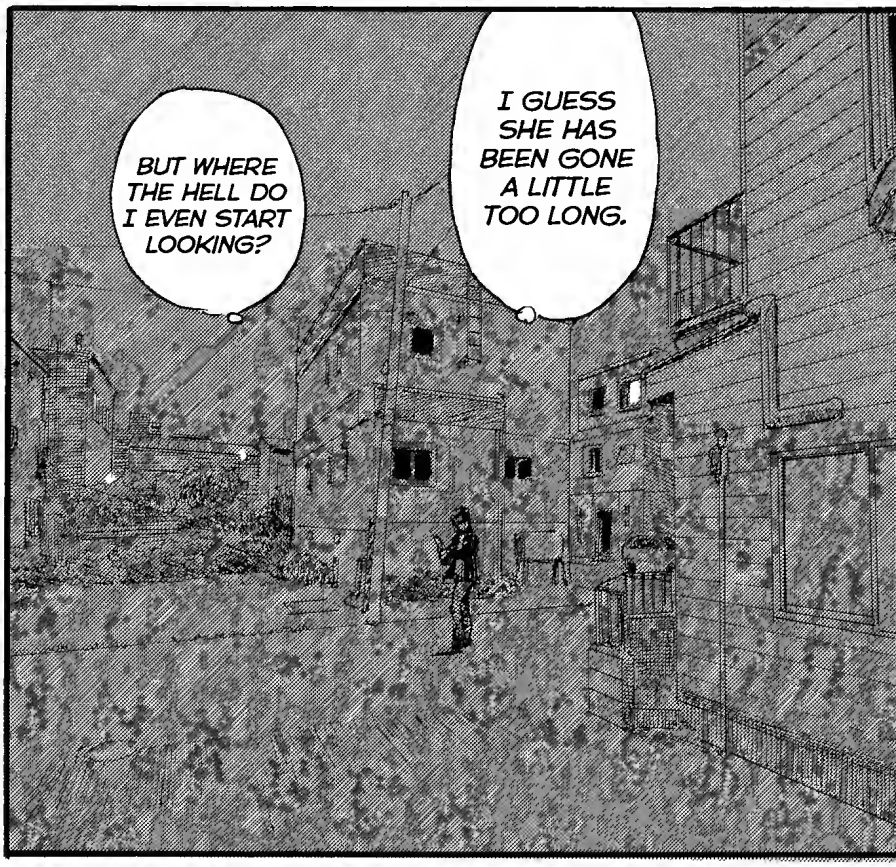
THWACK


I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE...
SHE SAID SHE HAD SOMETHING TO DO AND LEFT THE STORE AROUND 10:30.

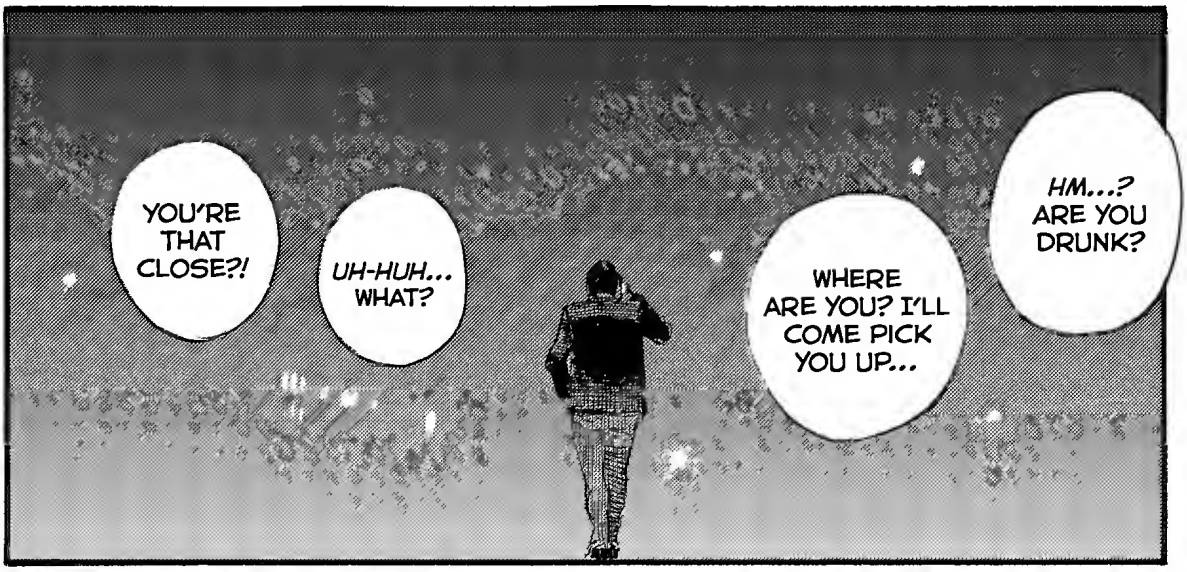
I THINK SHE'LL BE BACK SOON. SHE'S GONNA HAVE A ROUGH DAY TOMORROW IF SHE DOESN'T GET SOME SLEEP.
WHAT? IT'S TWO IN THE MORN-ING, YOU KNOW.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE WORRIED! GO LOOK FOR HER, DUMBASS!
I DID... BUT SHE WOULDN'T ANSWER!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU TRIED CALLING HER?!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULL-SHIT!


BRRR


BUT WHERE THE HELL DO I EVEN START LOOKING?
I GUESS SHE HAS BEEN GONE A LITTLE TOO LONG.

...Hello?
OH, GOOD. YOU ANSWERED.
I'M JUST CALLING SINCE IT'S SO LATE AND ALL. DID YOU TAKE CARE OF WHATEVER YOU NEEDED TO?
Oh... Yes, I did. Sorry...


HM...? ARE YOU DRUNK?
WHERE ARE YOU? I'LL COME PICK YOU UP...
UH-HUH... WHAT?
YOU'RE THAT CLOSE?!

IT'S COOL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
BUT IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA FOR A GIRL TO HANG OUT ALONE IN THE PARK AT NIGHT.
AHH... I WAS JUST HAVING A LITTLE TOAST BY MYSELF...
SORRY...
I SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST CALLED...
A TOAST TO WHAT? DID SOMETHIN' GOOD HAP-PEN?
YES! SOME-THING WONDER-FUL...
OH, YEAH? WHAT?
I WAS SO NERVOUS TODAY, I...

UM...
I PROMISE I'LL TELL YOU EVENTUALLY...
OH... OKAY.
WELL, EITHER WAY...
...NAKAHARASAN.
CLAT
I'M TERRIFIED...
CLAT
...
BUT I'M ALSO REALLY EXCITED.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE DECIDED SO MANY THINGS ON MY OWN WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING MY BROTHER.

AND I MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE.
I MIGHT EVEN MAKE ENEMIES.
I MIGHT... END UP MAKING A LOT OF WRONG DECISIONS.

I PROMISE THAT SOME-DAY...
...I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR ALL OF YOUR KINDNESS.
BUT... EVEN IF I'M WRONG,
I WANT YOU... TO SEE MY JOURNEY THROUGH... TO THE VERY END.

WE MAKE MANY MISTAKES IN OUR YOUTH,
BUT THOSE VERY MISTAKES ARE ACTS OF COURTESY TO OUR LIVES.

IT'S A LINE FROM A LATE-NIGHT DRAMA CALLED GOKAIDOCHU HIZAGERUGE*.
HUH? IS THAT SO?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE QUOTING YUKIO MISHIMA'S SEGAKI-BUNE...
ER... SORRY. THAT'S PROBABLY WHERE IT'S ORIGINALLY FROM...
*A PARODY OF THE NOVEL, TOKAIDOCHU HIZAKURIGE.
SOME-DAY...
...I ALSO PLAN TO LEAVE VOYAGER AND START MY OWN RESTAU-RANT.
IF YOU END UP LOSING YOUR WAY DOWN THE ROAD...
...AND FIND YOUR-SELF WITH NO WAY OUT...
...THEN COME WORK AT MY STORE.
I'LL PAY YOU A PROPER SALARY.
THEN AGAIN, JUST WATCHING YOU WORK IN THE STORE, I THINK YOU COULD PROBABLY WORK IN ALL SORTS OF FIELDS.

NAKA-HARA-SAN...
YOU'RE SO...!
UUH...
WHA— HUH?!
"IN THE FIELD OF LOVE, WOMEN ARE THE EXPERTS, WHILE MEN ARE FOREVER AMATEURS."
-YUKIO MISHIMA
WHAT PART OF OUR CONVERSA-TION MADE YOU CRY?
UHH... MY BAD! WAIT...
I SWEAR, BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS SAY THINGS LIKE THAT OUT OF KINDNESS,
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH I...
OH, GOD...